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Letter dated 7 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 June 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-40451 (E) 130601

Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 April 2001 (A/55/909-S/2001/395) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations and bring to your attention the following:

At the outset, I would like to refresh the memory of the Greek Cypriot representative, who refers to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as "occupied areas", by reminding him that the only occupation on the island is the 38-year-old forceful occupation of the seat of government of the now-defunct bi-national Republic of Cyprus by his administration. It was the Greek Cypriot side that, by destroying the partnership Republic and usurping its title in 1963, left the Turkish Cypriot people with no alternative but to eventually establish the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot administration's protestation of the visit of Mr. Ismail Cem, the Foreign Minister of Turkey, to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus should not come as a surprise in view of the fact that the Greek Cypriot side denies the existence on the island of anything that is of Turkish origin or ancestry. This Greek Cypriot mentality, which created the Cyprus question, assumes that while officials from Greece, including the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and other high ranking officials have the right to pay official visits to South Cyprus, officials from Turkey, which is a Guarantor Power under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee and the motherland of the Turkish Cypriot people, have no such right.

I wish to emphasize that the relationship between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are deeply rooted in a common history, culture and kinship and is based on mutual recognition between two sovereign States. Foreign Minister Cem's visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus underlines this close relationship as well as Turkey's commitment to the security and well-being of the Turkish Cypriot people. Turkey, as a Guarantor Power, has provided effective security guarantees for the Turkish Cypriot people in the face of the long-standing Greek Cypriot aggression, the aim of which is the Hellenize the island. The Greek Cypriot administration's unwarranted protestation stems from its contempt for Turkey for preventing the annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people and the annexation of the island to Greece. I would like to stress that it is the Greek Cypriot side's unfounded claim that it is the sole authority over the entire island that is the real provocation and impediment to a peaceful settlement.

It will be recalled that, soon after the establishment of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot leadership did not even try to hide their true intentions with respect to the island's future and all those who opposed their national ambitions. The following statement by Archbishop Makarios, the then leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, was, indeed, a bad omen for the Turkish Cypriots and the island as a whole.

> "Unless this small Turkish community forming a part of the Turkish race which has been the terrible enemy of Hellenism is expelled, the duty of the heroes of EOKA can never be considered as terminated." (Statement in Panayia village on 4 September 1962)

In December 1963, the Greek Cypriot leadership launched an all-out attack against the Turkish Cypriots throughout the island. Having ejected the Turkish Cypriots by force of arms from all organs of the state and having forced them into enclaves, Archbishop Makarios declared:

> "True victory would be achieved when Cyprus is annexed to Greece without giving any concessions." (Statement in the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Fileleftheros*, dated 21 November 1964)

More recent provocative and hostile statements by the Greek Cypriot political and military leadership show that the Greek Cypriot mentality has not changed over the years:

> "We are going through a most critical phase of our history. We have to work together towards the reunification of Cyprus with the objective of not handing our homeland (to future generations) in smaller form than what we had initially taken over." (Statement by Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the current leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, in the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Politis*, dated 12 March 2001)

> "The vision of the (Greek) Cypriot National Guard is the liberation of the occupied territories." (Statement by General Florakis, Commander of the Greek Cypriot National Guard, in the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Politis*, dated 18 March 2001)

> "We must not betray the memories or the devoted EOKA fighters who have given up their lives for the freedom of Cyprus." (Statement by Mr. Yiannakis Cassoulides, Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, in the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Politis*, dated 2 April 2001)

> "Our aim is to liberate our territories under yoke." (Statement by Mr. Socrates Hasikos, Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, in the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Politis*, dated 9 April 2001)

As for the European Union membership issue, I would like to reiterate that membership of the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to act for and on behalf of the whole of Cyprus, on the basis of its unilateral application, is contrary to the 1960 Cyprus treaties and international law. The Greek Cypriot side introduced the European Union factor in order to use this as a pretext to challenge the previously agreed and established parameters within the United Nations process. It is important to note that membership of the Greek Cypriot administration, under the usurped title of "government of Cyprus", would not only destroy all prospects for reconciliation between the two parties, ultimately bringing about the permanent division of the island, but would also pose a direct threat to peace and stability prevailing in the island and the region at large.

The Greek Cypriot representative has also tried to portray the Turkish Cypriot side as intransigent. I would like to stress that the Greek Cypriot side chronically brands as intransigent any position that does not recognize the Greek Cypriot administration as the government of the entire island. Any recognition to that effect would mean the colonization of the Turkish Cypriot people. Since the legitimacy of the Republic of Cyprus, which was established in accordance with the 1960 international treaties, is based on the joint presence and effective participation of both the Turkish Cypriot side and the Greek Cypriot side in all the organs of the

state, the assertion by the Greek Cypriot administration that it is the "government of Cyprus" cannot be substantiated by law or by fact.

The attempt by the Greek Cypriot representative to hold Turkey responsible for the suffering of the Turkish Cypriot people is no more than a vain attempt to cover up the responsibility of the Greek Cypriot administration for the violation of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriot people who have been subjected to massacres as well as inhuman embargoes by the Greek Cypriot side since 1963. If the Greek Cypriot administration is genuinely concerned about the well-being of the Turkish Cypriot people, it should first apologize for the suffering it has caused to the Turkish Cypriot people for the past four decades, put an end to the inhuman embargoes imposed on Northern Cyprus and respect the sovereign and equal rights of the Turkish Cypriot people.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus